

MARVEL

1

DONNY CATES • RYAN STEGMAN • JP MAYER • FRANK MARTIN

ABSOLUTE

CARNAGE

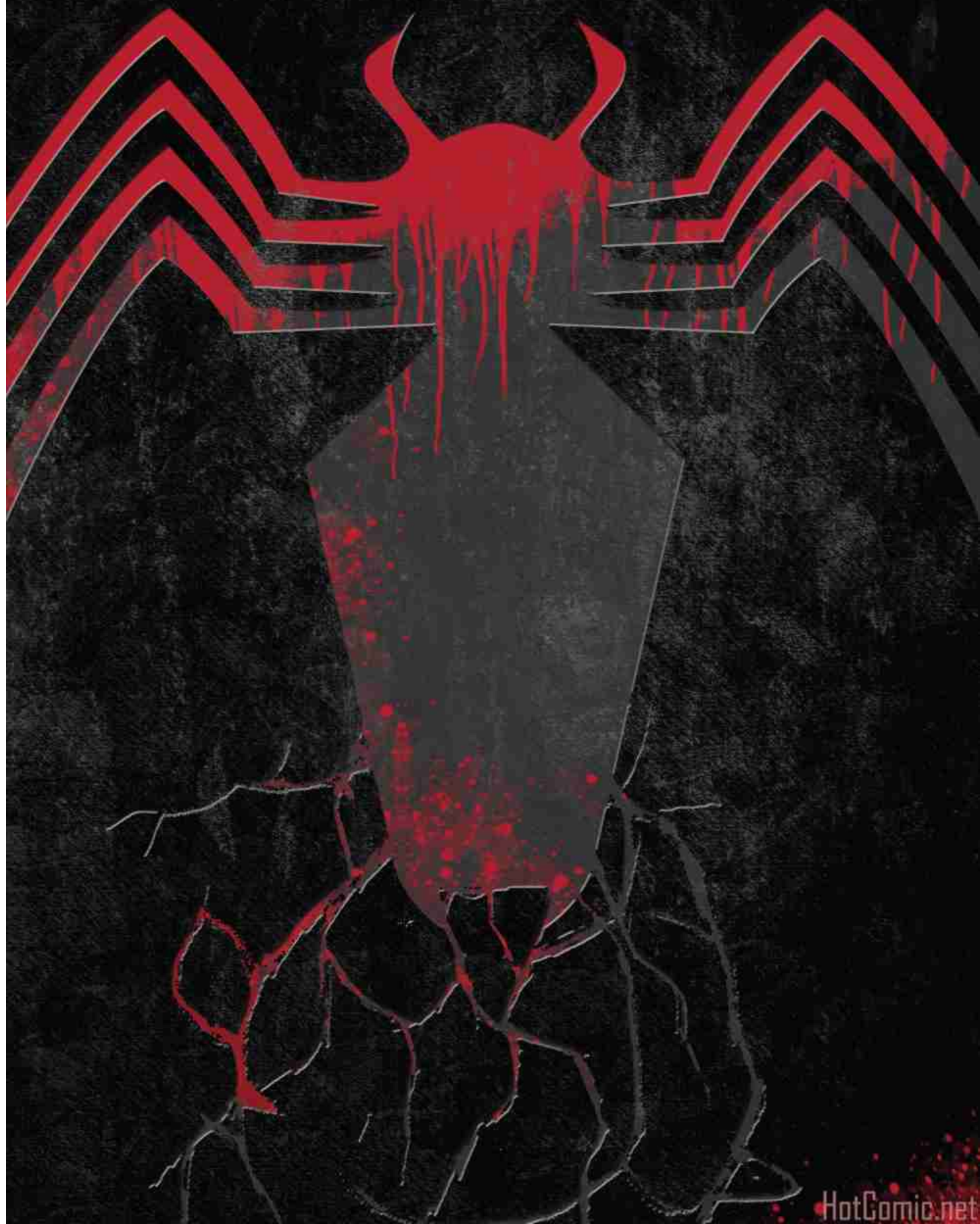


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CHAPTER ONE:

THE
**BLEEDING
KING**



AT ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE, DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK CAME INTO CONTACT WITH AN AGGRESSIVE AND PARASITIC ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A **SYMBIOTE**. SENSING BROCK'S ANGER, THE CREATURE BONDED WITH HIM, AND THEIR UNION GRANTED HIM POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF UNIQUE ABILITIES, AND THE TWO FOUGHT CRIME AS **VENOM**.

BUT BROCK AND THE SYMBIOTE ARE SEPARATED NOW, DRIVEN APART AFTER EDDIE LEARNED IT HAD BEEN TAMPERING WITH HIS MEMORIES PRIOR TO THE WAR OF THE REALMS. HE ALSO LEARNED THAT HE HAS A SON NAMED DYLAN WHO HAS BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT EDDIE IS HIS OLDER BROTHER.

ALL THIS WHILE A FAMILIAR EVIL HAS BEEN AT WORK ON THE PERIPHERY OF EDDIE'S WORLD, WITH EDDIE AND EVERYONE HE CARES ABOUT DEAD IN ITS SIGHTS.

SOMEHOW, BROCK WILL NEED TO KEEP HIMSELF AND HIS SON ALIVE THROUGH THE COMING STORM...

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

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"OKAY, LOOK. I'M NOT GOING TO SUGARCOAT THIS FOR YOU. THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET REALLY @#%&@ BAD.

"IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THIS, I NEED YOU TO PAY ATTENTION TO EVERY WORD I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU.

"LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS THIS GOD NAMED **KNULL**. HE WAS HERE BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE. HE RULED OVER THE ENDLESS NOTHING THAT WAS PRE-CREATION. **THE ABYSS**.

"HE'S THE ONE WHO **CREATED** THE SYMBIOTES.

"HE'S THEIR GOD. OR HE...**WAS**, I GUESS.

"SEE, **KNULL** WAGED WAR ACROSS THE COSMOS KILLING EVERYTHING LIVING AND BRIGHT. EVERYTHING THAT THREATENED HIS INFINITE BLACK KINGDOM.

"THE SYMBIOTES ROSE UP AGAINST HIM, AND NOW HE'S CAGED INSIDE WHAT WE USED TO THINK WAS THE **PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES**.

"TURNS OUT IT'S NOT A PLANET AT ALL.

"JUST BILLIONS OF HIS OWN CREATIONS FORMING A CAGE AROUND HIM, HOLDING HIM DOWN.

"HE'S THERE RIGHT NOW. SLEEPING. IMPRISONED.

"IN THE VOID.

"FOR NOW...

"ANYWAY, FLASH-FORWARD A COUPLE BILLION YEARS AND YOU GOT ME.

"I BONDED WITH ONE OF KNULL'S CREATIONS.

"TOGETHER WE WENT BY VENOM. BUT YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY.

"WE--ME AND THE OTHER--WE AREN'T TOGETHER ANYMORE, BUT WE...WE HAD A GOOD RUN.

"BUT SEE, MY SYMBIOTE, IT DIDN'T JUST BOND WITH ME. IT, UH...HAS A BIT OF A COMPLICATED PAST.

"IT'S HAD OTHER HOSTS. LOTS OF OTHER HOSTS.

"AND EVERY TIME IT, OR ONE OF ITS OFFSPRING, BONDED WITH SOMEONE, WELL, IT TURNS OUT THE SYMBIOTES DON'T JUST LEAVE THEIR HOSTS THE WAY THEY FOUND THEM...

"NO, THEY LEAVE A LITTLE PIECE BEHIND, WRAPPED AROUND YOUR DNA. IT'S HOW THEIR SPECIES COMMUNICATES INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR HOSTS TO THE LARGER HIVE.

"THIS THING, THAT LITTLE PIECE...

"...WE'RE CALLING IT THE CODEX.

"NOW, MY SYMBIOTE AND ITS OFFSPRING, THEY'VE BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE HIVE FOR A LONG DAMN TIME.

"BUT--AND HERE'S THE IMPORTANT PART--THE THINKING IS, IF ALL OF THOSE LITTLE PIECES OF THE CODEX CAN BE COLLECTED, WHOEVER HOLDS THEM ALL CAN RECONNECT TO THE HIVE.

"AND MAYBE, JUST MAYBE...

"...THEY CAN TALK TO GOD.

"AND THEY CAN WAKE HIM BACK UP."



NEW YORK CITY.
NOW.

AND
THEN WE ALL
DIE.
ANY
QUESTIONS?



Ummm...



SO...THE
MAN WHO'S TRYING
TO COLLECT THESE
PIECES...HE'S--

NOT A MAN.
CARNAGE.
RESURRECTED
SOMEHOW BY SOME
KINDA CULT THAT
WORSHIPS
KNOLL.

RIGHT. BUT
HE **WAS**, RIGHT?
A MAN?

YEAH,
CLETUS
KASADY.



WORST SERIAL
KILLER TO EVER WALK
THE EARTH.

BODY
COUNT ONLY
DICTATORS
AND PLAGUES
CAN DREAM
OF.



RIGHT.
OKAY.



ANYTHING
ELSE HORRIFYING
I SHOULD
KNOW?

YOU'RE MY SON. BUT I CAN'T
TELL YOU BECAUSE EVERYTHING
THAT EVER TOUCHES ME ROTS
AND WITHERS AND DIES.

NO. THAT'S
ABOUT THE SIZE
OF IT.



SO WHAT
ARE WE GOING
TO--

NO. NOT AFTER
LAST TIME. I'M PUTTING
YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE
UNTIL I CAN FIGURE
OUT A PLAN.

WHAT?
WHERE?

STILL FIGURING
THAT PART OUT. I HAVE
ONE IDEA, BUT I HATE IT.
SO IT MIGHT BE THE
BEST ONE.

UNTIL
THEN, WE HAVE
TO ASSUME
WE'RE BEING
HUNTED.

WE JUST
GOTTA KEEP
A LOW...







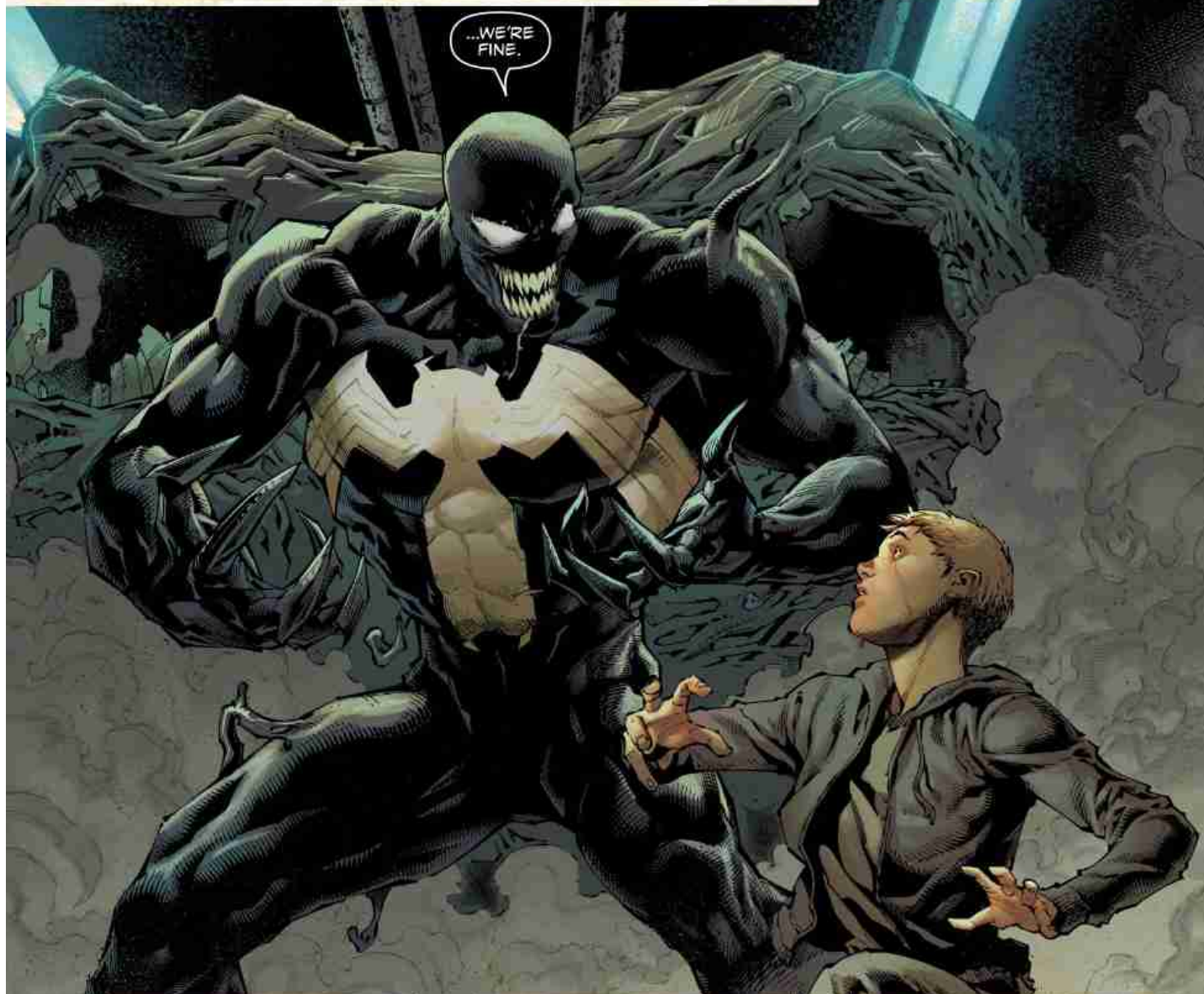


NO.

SMASH



US





E-EDDIE BROCK!
STEP AWAY FROM THE
BOY AND PUT YOUR HANDS
WHERE WE CAN SEE
THEM! NOW!



NO TIME FOR THIS,
EDDIE. MUST LEAVE.
THESE MEN WILL DIE.

LISTEN TO
ME. I AM NOT
YOUR ENEMY. I AM
NOT GOING TO
HURT ANYONE.



TELL IT TO THE **TRAIN** YOU
JUST DERAILED, PSYCHO!
I AM NOT GOING TO
TELL YOU AGAIN.

STEP AWAY
FROM THE CHILD
AND GET ON YOUR
KNEES! NOW!



DYLAN...

I NEED
YOU TO GO
WITH THESE MEN,
OKAY? YOU'LL
BE SAFE
AND--

EDDIE!

WHAT?!

NO!

LISTEN
TO ME!
NOW!

DAMMIT,
KID. DON'T ARGUE
WITH ME. NOW
JUST--



RUN!

TRIED TO
TELL YOU,
EDDIE!

OH
GOD...

IT'S HIM!

CARNAGE
IS HERE!

WELL,
HELLO,
DADDY!

WE
SHOULD
CATCH
UP.



WH-WHAT
THE HELL IS
THAT?!

OFFICERS,
YOU NEED TO GET
OUT OF HERE. TAKE
MY--TAKE THE KID WITH
YOU AND RUN LIKE
HELL.



WE'LL
TAKE IT FROM
HERE.



NEED TO BE
CAREFUL,
EDDIE.

NEVER FACED
ANYTHING
LIKE HIM.

HAHAHA!

HIS SYMBIOTE.
I SENSE IT.

HE'S WEARING THE DRAGON
WE FOUGHT WITH REX, THE
ONE THAT ALMOST KILLED US.



THWAMM

THAT'S NOT
GONNA CUT IT,
BROOK!

HAVEN'T
YOU HEARD?

EDDIE, HE'S
WEARING THE
GRENNEL!

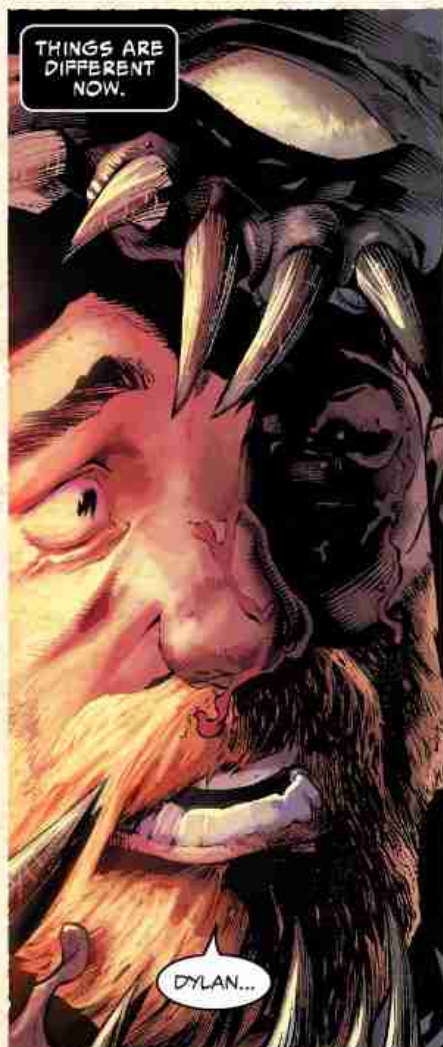


I DON'T
THINK WE
CAN WIN
THIS!

WE'RE
A GOD
NOW!

AGH!





RAGHHH!
H!

AGHH!



EDDIE.

EDDIE,
WAKE UP.

YOU
HAVE TO
GET UP.

EDDIE!



EDDIE!

AGH!



EDDIE!

DAMMIT,
KID, GET BACK
HERE!



ARE
YOU--

I'M ALIVE.
I DON'T KNOW
HOW, BUT I
AM...

COME
ON, WE
GOTTA
GO.

IS HE...
DID YOU KILL
HIM?



NO.

AND
I'M--I'M
NOT SURE
I CAN.

HEH...
HEH...



YOU HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING SINCE WE LEFT THE SUBWAY. ARE YOU OKAY?

WH... WHAT?

EDDIE IS OKAY. HE'S SLEEPING.



I'VE PLACED EDDIE IN A SORT OF COMA WHILE I WORK TO REPAIR HIS BODY.

BUT YES, HE'S OKAY.



OH.

OKAY... ALIEN... PILOTING... MY BROTHER...

WE'VE ARRIVED. I'LL WAKE EDDIE BACK UP NOW.



ARRIVED? WHERE ARE WE?

OH. HEY, KID. WHAT'S UP?

I HATE THIS. I ASKED... WHERE ARE WE?

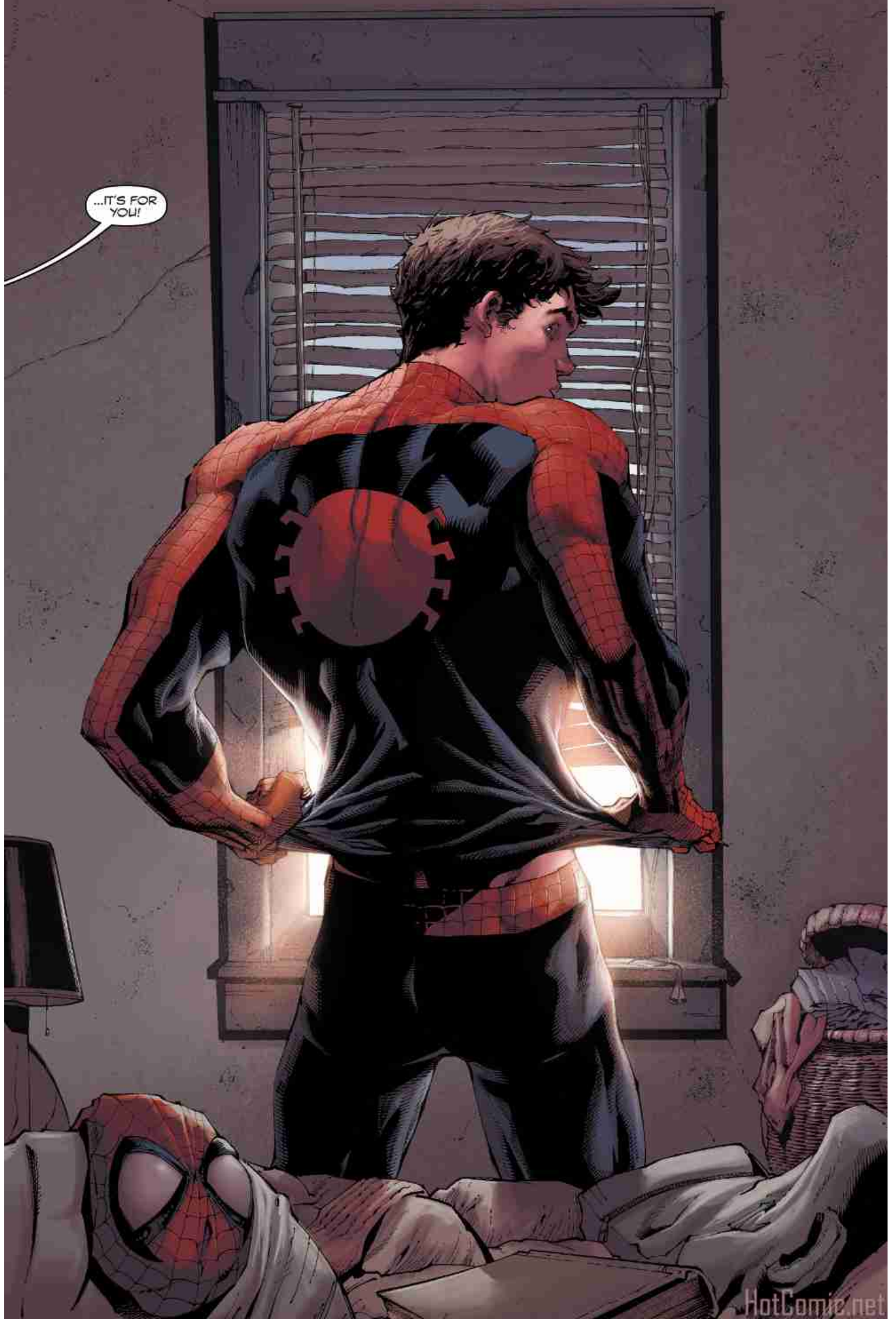
DAMN, ARE WE HERE?



LIGH. YEAH, THIS... THIS IS THAT BAD IDEA I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT EARLIER...



...IT'S FOR
YOU!



CHAPTER TWO:
THE
GOD SON



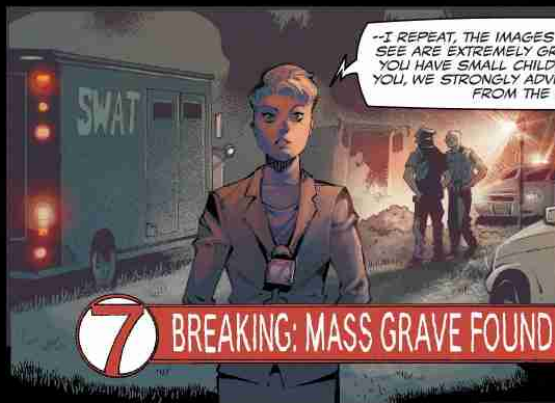












--I REPEAT, THE IMAGES YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE ARE EXTREMELY GRAPHIC IN NATURE. IF YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN WATCHING WITH YOU, WE STRONGLY ADVISE REMOVING THEM FROM THE ROOM.

WHAT YOU ARE SEEING NOW IS A MASS GRAVE UNCOVERED IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY.

AUTHORITIES ARE CLAIMING THAT THE "NEST," AS THEY ARE CALLING IT, WAS CREATED IN SUCH AN INTRICATE WAY THAT WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT WANTED IT TO BE FOUND.

WE'VE BEEN TOLD THAT MANY OF THE VICTIMS HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN DEAD FOR MONTHS, EVEN YEARS, BEFORE THEIR BODIES WERE EXHUMED AND PLACED HERE.

CHILLINGLY, ALL OF THE BODIES HAVE HAD THEIR SPINES REMOVED...

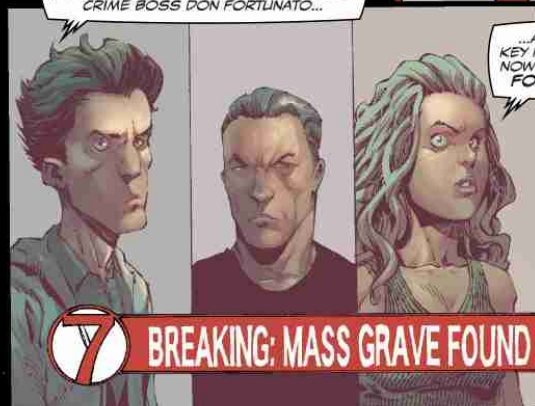
7 BREAKING: MASS GRAVE FOUND

A LIST OF THE VICTIMS' IDENTITIES IS STILL BEING COMPILED, BUT WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT ALONG WITH SEVERAL NOTABLE FIGURES SUCH AS ANGELO FORTUNATO, SON OF THE INFAMOUS CRIME BOSS DON FORTUNATO...

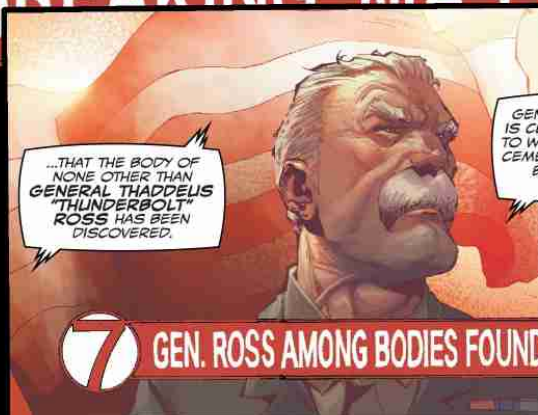
...AND SEVERAL KEY PLAYERS IN THE NOW-DEFUNCT LIFE FOUNDATION...

...THAT THE BODY OF NONE OTHER THAN GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS HAS BEEN DISCOVERED.

GENERAL ROSS' BODY IS CURRENTLY EN ROUTE TO WEST POINT NATIONAL CEMETERY WHERE IT WILL BE PLACED IN ITS ORIGINAL--



7 BREAKING: MASS GRAVE FOUND



7 GEN. ROSS AMONG BODIES FOUND





A MESSAGE THAT SAYS IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE DEAD.

I'M NOT ARGUING WITH YOU, BUT YOU CAN'T LET HIM DO THIS TO YOU.

IF WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT THIS THING, YOU HAVE TO BE--



IT MEANS THAT ANNIE'S BODY IS IN THERE.



WHO IS THAT?



MISS, CAN WE GRAB THE--

EVERYBODY DOWN!





"...I MIGHT
KNOW A
GUY."

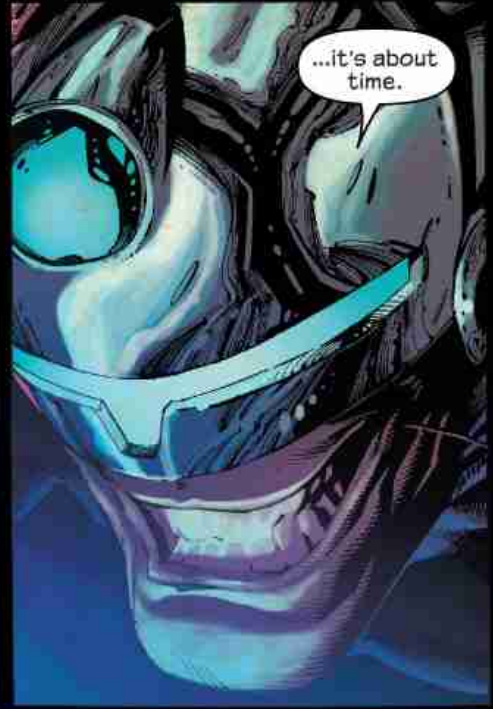
**REX STRICKLAND'S
SAFE HOUSE.
LATER...**



Hello,
Edward, I received
your call...

So, Kasady
is finally making
his move.

Well then...



...it's about
time.

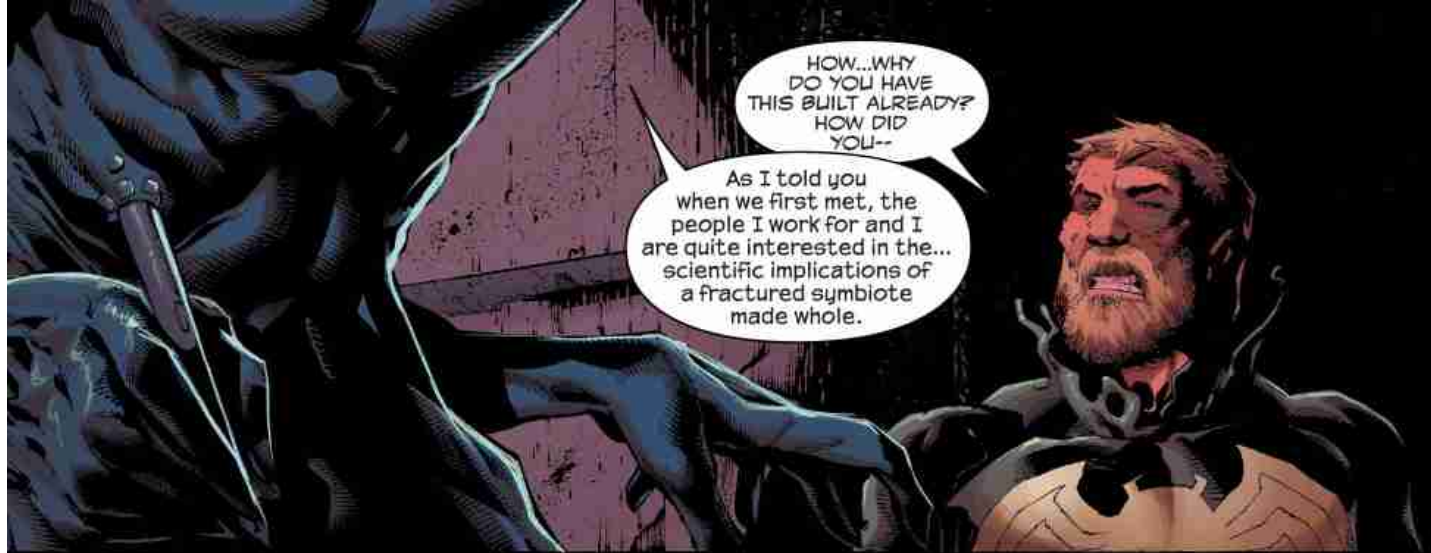
MAKER,
WHAT...IS ALL
OF THIS?

As you said
in your call, you
require a method of
extracting the codices
from their respective
hosts without killing
them, yes?

You require a
machine. Well, here
you are...

I built
it thirty-five
days ago.





HOW...WHY
DO YOU HAVE
THIS BUILT ALREADY?
HOW DID
YOU--

As I told you
when we first met, the
people I work for and I
are quite interested in the...
scientific implications of
a fractured symbiote
made whole.



I began building
this device before I
ever met you. I had hoped
to use it on Flash Thompson,
but, well...

I've been
reassembling it here in
your...warehouse as my
lab is rather...sensitive
at the moment.



I know
time is of the
essence now that
this new...*darker*
Carnage has been
set loose.

It will take me
a few more hours
to complete its
construction.



MAKER...

REAL SOON
YOU AND I ARE
GOING TO HAVE AN
INTENSE CONVERSATION
ABOUT JUST WHAT THE
HELL YOU'RE
PLANNING...



If
you say
so.

For now,
our interests
are aligned. If I were
you, I would leave it at
that and enjoy your
ignorance.

I suspect
you won't enjoy
the knowledge
you think you
deser--

UH,
EDDIE?



WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?



Oh look, a Spider-Man.

With yet another child...

BE NICE.



HEY, I DON'T THINK WE'VE MET. I'M--

I'm quite aware. Yes.

AND YOU ARE...

THIS IS THE GUY I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT.



My name is Reed Richards. I'm sure that is quite confusing for you, but we haven't the time to--

WHHAAAATT? REALLY? WAIT, WHAT? HOW? REALLY?



I am from an alternate dimension. Very much like yours but...younger.

I KNOW, LIKE, **SIX** ALTERNATE VERSIONS OF MYSELF AND THEY'RE AMAZING.

OUR REED IS ONE OF MY PERSONAL HEROES, SO IF YOU'RE EVEN HALF AS SMART AS HE IS, WE'RE IN GOOD HANDS.

I assure you I am at least half as smart as your Reed.



IS THAT... HIM?

YEAH, THIS IS MY GODSON.



NORMIE,
THIS IS EDDIE.
HE'S A...FRIEND OF
MINE. HE'S GOING
TO HELP YOU,
OKAY?

HEY,
BUDDY, NICE
TO MEET
YOU.



THIS IS
DYLAN. HE'S
MY...LITTLE
BROTHER.

HI.

HI.

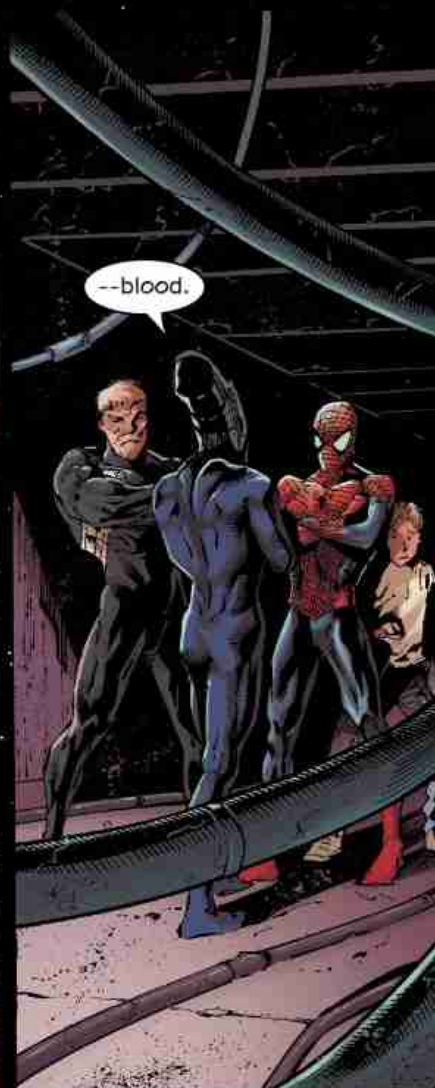


SEE? THERE'S
NO REASON TO BE
SCARED, OKAY? WE'RE
GOING TO GET THAT LITTLE
BUG OUT OF YOU
IN NO--



This is the child
Norman Osborn infected
with the Carnage symbiote
before he went insane,
yes?

Before
we can place him in
the extractor, I'll need
to take a small
sample of--



--blood.



What?



NUH-UH. I'M SORRY, BUT YOU AREN'T PUTTING MY GODSON INTO...WHATEVER THIS THING IS UNTIL I KNOW IT'S SAFE.



Sigh

I assure you my calculations are correct. The machine will work perfectly once it's completed.

But if you'd rather I not place the child inside of it first, by all means...



...go and fetch me someone else with a codex.



Perhaps a highly dangerous and rather obvious candidate that Cletus Kasady would target.



I don't suppose anyone like that comes to mind.



CHAPTER THREE:

THE LONG RED DARK



RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.

NOW.

OSBORN.

A WHILE BACK, NORMAN
OSBORN INFECTED HIMSELF
WITH WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE
CARNAGE SYMBIOTE.

CALLED
HIMSELF
THE RED
GOBLIN.

SICK SON OF
A @#\$%&*
INFECTED HIS
GRANDSON,
NORMIE, TOO.

PETE WAS ABLE
TO PUT NORMAN
DOWN, BUT...

...SOMETHING
CHANGED IN
HIM.

THERE WAS
A SPIDER ON
THE TOILET
SEAT...

...WHEN I
WAS THERE LAST
NIGHT.

I DIDN'T
SEE HIM IN THE
DARK...

...BUT
BOY... I FELT
HIS BITE.

WHEN THE DUST
FELL, NORMAN WAS
GONE. HIS PSYCHE
SHATTERED.

IN ITS PLACE...
SOMETHING ELSE
CRAWLED IN...

I CAN'T
LIE DOWN. I
CAN'T SIT UP.
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO
DO!

VSSSSHHH

A PIECE OF
CLETUS KASADY
INFECTED NORMAN.

HE THINKS HE **IS**
CLETUS. HE HAS ALL
HIS MEMORIES, ALL
HIS HATE AND ALL HIS
MURDEROUS INSANITY...

THE
NURSES
THINK IT'S FUNNY!
BUT THAT'S...NOT
MY POINT OF
VIEW.

IF IT WERE UP TO ME,
HE'D BE UNDERGROUND
INSTEAD OF ROTTING
AWAY IN THIS HELLHOLE.

AND NOW, WE GOTTA
BREAK HIM OUT
BEFORE THE **REAL**
CLETUS COMES AND
KILLS HIM.

AND WHEN
I GET BACK
HOME AGAIN, I'LL
TELL YOU WHAT
I'LL DO!

HATE TO
SAY IT, BUT
PETE WAS
RIGHT...

I'LL MAKE
THAT @##%&%%
SUFFER FOR THE
PAIN I'M GOING
THROUGH.



I HATE THIS
SYMBIOTE
@#%& TOO.

OKAY,
EVERYONE'S
CLEAR. YOU CAN
COME OUT
NOW.

JOHN
JAMESON...

...YOU'RE
A LIFE-
SAVER.



LITERALLY.



VENOM?!

SPIDEY, LOOK
OUT! HE'S RIGHT
BEHIND--



HEY!
WHAT--



AT EASE,
JOHN. HE'S
WITH ME.

WHAT?
BUT HE
ATTACKED
RYKER'S! HE
KILLED--

IT WASN'T
HIM. THAT WAS
CARNAGE WEARING
HIS FACE.



YEAH...
OKAY. IF YOU SAY
SO, SPIDEY.

THANK YOU
FOR GETTING US
IN HERE. I OWE
YOU ONE.

I'LL NEED IT. HAD TO PULL
EVERY FAVOR I HAD TO
CLEAR THIS PLACE OUT
LIKE THIS.

WE'VE LOCKED
DOWN THE MAXIMUM
SECURITY WING AND ARE CALLING
IT A "TEMPORARY PHYSIOLOGICAL
TEST SITE." IT'LL HOLD WATER AS
LONG AS NO ONE SQUINTS
AT IT TOO HARD.



STILL, I...
I SAW WHAT
CARNAGE IS CAPABLE
OF OUT IN DOVERTON.*
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING
LIKE IT.

IF YOU SAY
WE NEED TO MOVE
OSBORN...IF YOU THINK
IT'LL HELP US TO STOP
THAT MONSTER, YOU
HAVE MY HELP.

*DOVERTON? WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
CHECK OUT WEB OF VENOM: CULT
OF CARNAGE TO FIND OUT! --DEVIN



SORRY
ABOUT THE
GUN. HARD TO
KEEP TRACK
WITH YOU...

DON'T SWEAT
IT. SHOOTING ME
WOULD HAVE JUST
RUINED YOUR
DAY, ANYWAY.

I'M STILL A
WEREWOLF, YOU
KNOW. YOU EVER
WANNA COMPARE
MONSTERS I'M
HAPPY TO--



HOW
ABOUT WE STOP
COMPARING THINGS
ALTOGETHER AND
PUT OUR GAME
FACES ON...



...WE'RE
HERE.

ALL RIGHT,
HOW DO WE
DO THIS? WE HAVE
OVERRIDE CODES
FOR THIS CELL OR
AM I RIPPING THE
DOOR OFF ITS
HINGES?



NOT SO
FAST. WE NEED
HIM SEDATED BEFORE
WE OPEN THE DOOR. IF HE
GETS LOOSE RIGHT
NOW HE COULD--



AGH!

WHAT
IS IT?

SPIDEY-
SENSE! BUT
WHAT...

WE'RE NEXT
TO NORMAN
OSBORN'S CELL...
WHAT ELSE DO
YOU NEED?!

NOT HOW
IT WORKS! IT ONLY
GOES OFF IF I'M IN
IMMEDIATE...



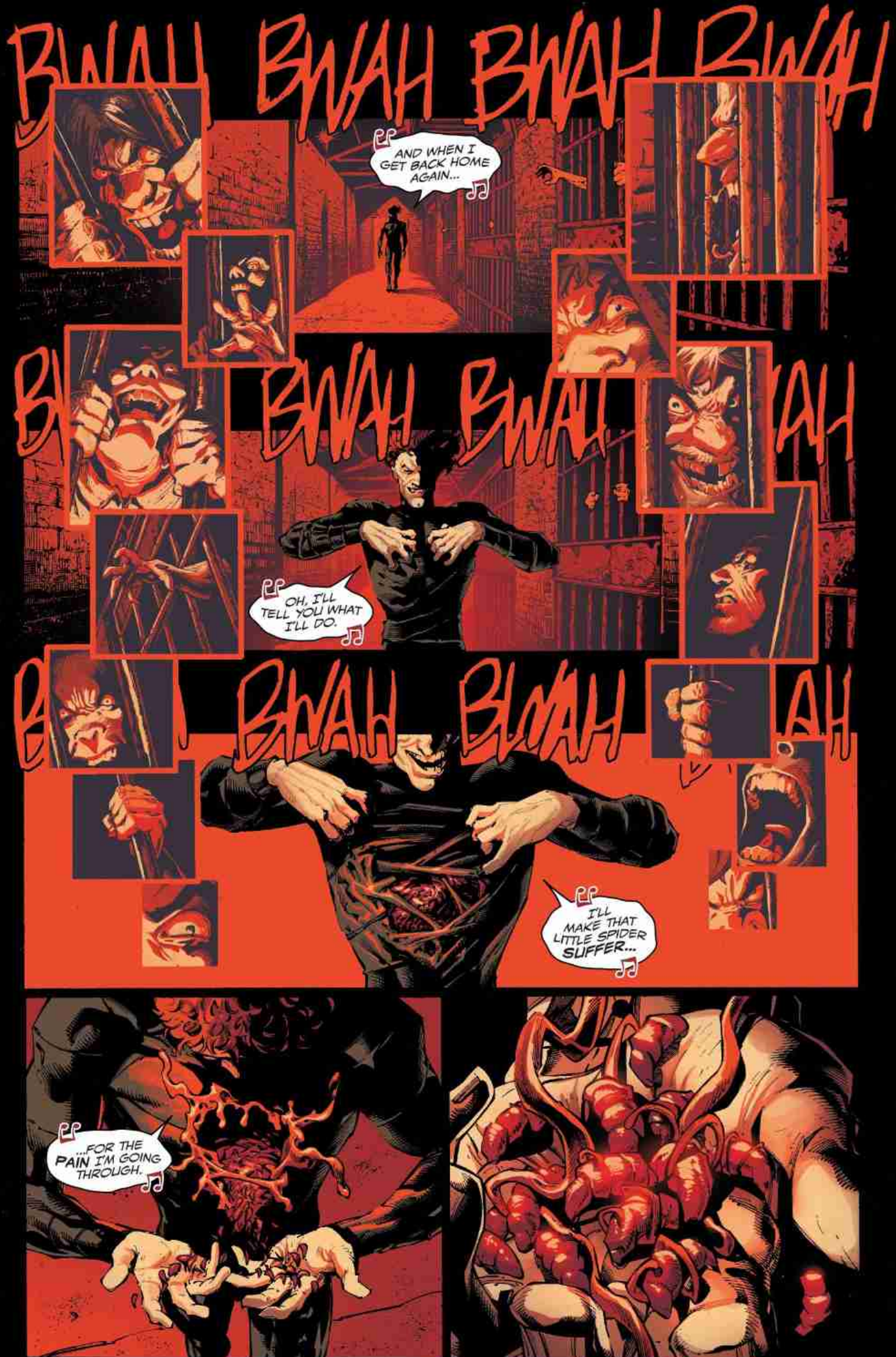
JOHN...



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

I'M
SORRY...
HE'S...
INSIDE...MY
HEAD...I HAVE
TO...







PP
I'VE
HAD SO MANY
NEEDLES...



HEY! NO!
AGH, WHAT
THE HELL IS
THAT?!

...I'M
LOOKING LIKE
A SIEVE.



NO,
NOOAAAAGHH!



RAAGHH!



GET IT
OFF OF
ME!



AGHH!
GOD, NO!



PP
I
PROMISE
YOU...THAT
SPIDER...



PP
...HASNT
VERY LONG
TO LIVE.

EDDIE!
THE
PAIN!

DAMMIT,
I KNOW!
AGH!

P-PETE!
LITTLE
HELP!

HE'S
COMING!
HAHA!

LITTLE BUSY
DEALING WITH A
DARK-GOD-INFECTED
MAYBE-SOON-TO-
BE WEREWOLF,
MAN!

EDDIE!
LOSING...
CONTROL...
CAN'T HOLD
ON...

RRRRR,
FINE!

DO IT...
MYSELF!

RAGHHH!

RAGGHHH!

AHH!!!



GEEZ,
ED, YOU
OKAY?

HAHA! DO
YOU HEAR IT? HE'S
COMING!

WE'LL
LIVE.
NOW, WE
DOING THIS
OR--



HE'S
HERE! DO YOU
HEAR--

SORRY,
JOHN!



MY OTHER FEELS
IT BEFORE I DO...

SENDS A KNIFE
INTO MY PSYCHE
TO TELL ME TO STOP.

AGHH!



TO LISTEN.

HEY, WHAT
WAS THAT? ARE
YOU ALL--

MY OTHER...
SCREAMING IN
MY BRAIN. NEVER
FELT ANYTHING
LIKE IT...

IT CAN
SENSE THEM.
DO YOU...

PETE...

CHK CHK
CHK CHK
CHK CHK



AT FIRST I CAN'T
PLACE IT...SOUNDS
LIKE A SWARM. A
BIBLICAL PLAGUE...
AND THEN IT HITS ME...

...DO
YOU HEAR
THAT?

THAT
SOUND...
IT'S NOT
LOCUSTS...





WE GOTTA
GET OUT OF
HERE. WE CAN'T
FIGHT THIS...

NO. IF HE
KILLS NORMAN
AND TAKES
HIS CODEX, HE
JUST GETS
STRONGER.

WE
HAVE
TO...



LIGH.

WE HAVE TO
SAVE NORMAN
OSBORN.



HAHAH!
NORMAN
OSBORN IS
HERE! SAVE
ME A
PIECE!



SHUT UP!



ALL RIGHT,
WEB-HEAD, YOU
READY?

LIGH...



WHERE'S
THE SENTRY
WHEN YOU
NEED HIM,
RIGHT?



EVERYTHING
INSIDE OF MY
OTHER COMES
ROARING TO
LIFE.

AND I
REMEMBER...



FOR THE FIRST TIME
SINCE THE DRAGON,
SINCE KNULL, SINCE
THE LOSS...

...THE
BETRAYAL...



...I REMEMBER
WHY I DO THIS.

WHY I LET THIS...
ALIEN ATTACH ITSELF
TO ME. MAKE ME
MORE THAN I WAS...



I USED TO THINK IT
WAS A PARASITE...
THAT IT TOOK FROM
ME, AND NEVER GAVE
ANYTHING BACK...



BUT HERE, FIGHTING
FOR MY LIFE, I
REMEMBER...

...IT GIVES ME
EXACTLY WHAT
I NEED...

...BECAUSE
SOMETIMES WHAT
I NEED IS PAIN.

RAGHHH!

HEY!

THESE
ARE INNOCENT
PEOPLE!

THEY'RE
MURDEROUS
PSYCHOPATHS
INCARCERATED FOR
THEIR CRIMES, INDICTED
BY A JURY OF THEIR
PEERS! WHAT ABOUT
THAT IS--

FINE! YOU
GOT A BETTER
PLAN?

MAYBE! DO
THEY SHARE YOUR
WEAKNESSES?

NOT
CLETUS, NO!
ELECTRICITY
SEEMS TO BE THE
ONLY THING THAT
WORKS ON HIM.
I DON'T KNOW
ABOUT THESE
THINGS.

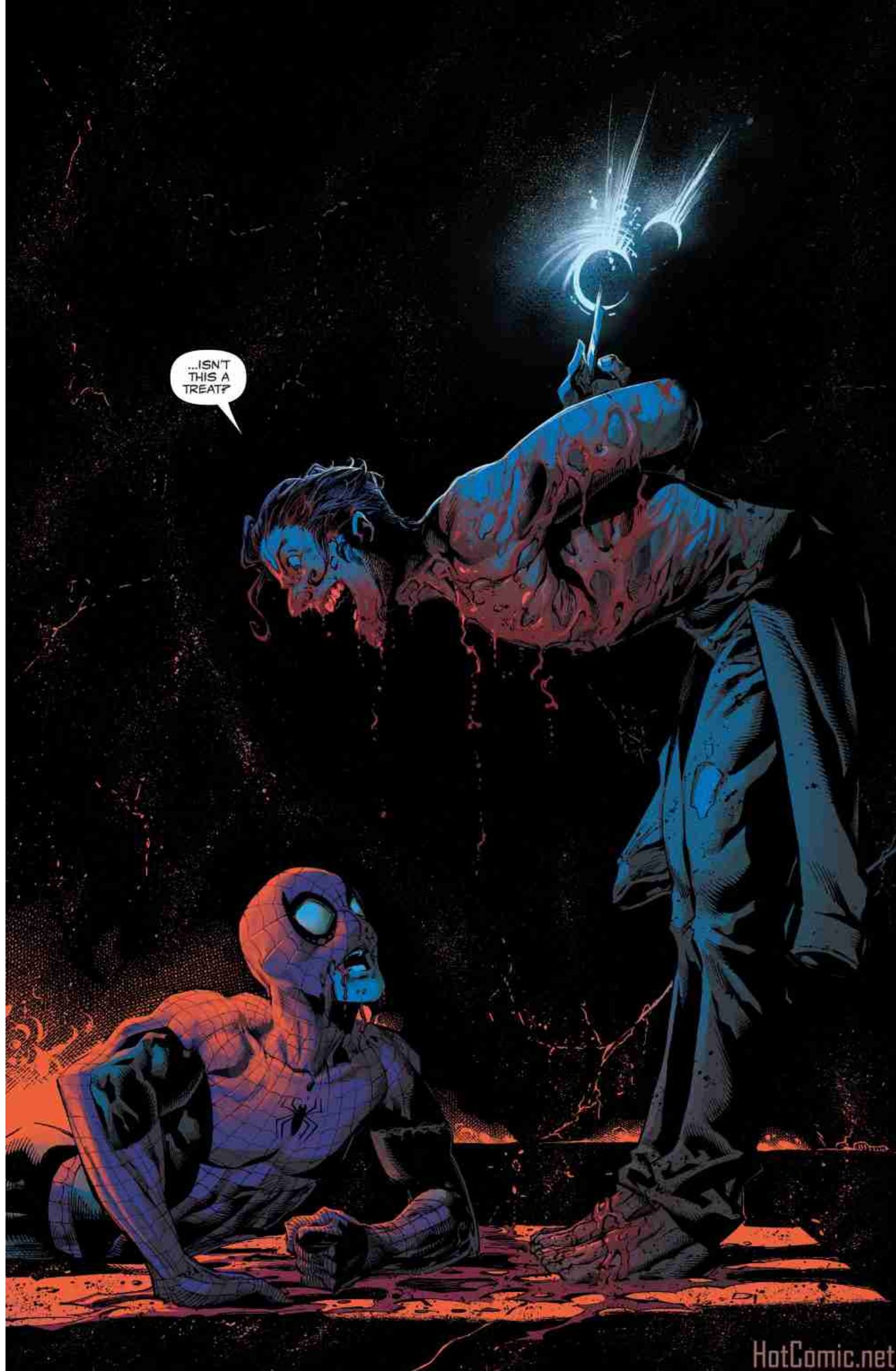
YOU KNOW
WHAT I MEAN!
THEY AREN'T IN
CONTROL!

NO
KILLING,
EDDIE!

GOT IT, OKAY!
HERE'S THE PLAN--I'LL
SET OFF THE EMERGENCY
SPRINKLERS, YOU GET TO
SOME ELECTRICAL
CONDUITS AND--

SPIDER-MAN,
WATCH OUT!





...ISN'T
THIS A
TREAT?

RAGH! HEHEH!
STAY STILL! I
WANT TO SEE WHAT
YOU LOOK LIKE
INSIDE!



AGH!
SORRY,
GOBBY.

I DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR YOUR--AGH!--
CRAZY RIGHT
NOW!

HAHA! WHAT
THE HELL IS A
GOBBY, YOU
SICK FREA--
HEY,
DUMMY!



HEY,
NORMAN!

WE'RE
TRYING TO
SAVE YOU,
DUMMY!



EDDIE, WHAT
ARE YOU DOING? WE
HAVE TO GET HIM
OUT OF--

I'LL HOLD
THE DOOR, YOU
GET US OUT OF
HERE!

WHAT?
HOW?

WE'RE
TRAPPED IN
A PRISON CELL
WITH THREE-FOOT
CONCRETE WALLS
ON ALL SIDES
AND--

AGHH!
DON'T BE CLEVER!
BE STRONG!



THIS...IS
GOING TO
HURT.

...RIGHT.

THWIP

HAGH!

HAGH!

HAGH!

HAGH!

RAGHHHH!
COME ON!

HAGH!

HAGH!

HAGH!

HAGH!

HAGH!

HAGH!

HAGH!

AHHHH!!!





I CAME
HERE TO MAKE
FRIENDS!

TO BE CONTINUED...



CLETUS' Clubhouse

DANNY KHAZEM
ASSISTANT EDITOR
DEVIN LEWIS **NICK LOWE**
EDITOR EXECUTIVE EDITOR
C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF
JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT
ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

SEND EMAILS TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)

AT LAST!

After over a year of planning and six months of work on this issue alone, **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1** is a comic book that exists that **YOU** get to hold in your hands **RIGHT NOW!**

If this is your first **VENOM** book in a while, or your first one ever, **WELCOME!** We hope you survive the experience.

Donny and Ryan, and Frank and Clayton--the whole **VENOM** team--are so happy that you've joined us for this crazy, terrifying ride. It represents, literally, the culmination of everyone's efforts for over a year, so we hope you enjoyed this first chapter, and let me be the first to say, things only get crazier from here!

I know what you're saying to yourself: "Crazier than Norman Osborn wearing the Carnage symbiote again?! Comics don't **GET** any crazier than that."

This is Cletus Kasady--**CARNAGE**--we're talking about, with Cates and Stegman at the helm, so you **BET** they do!

The madness started back in January--in the first full week of 2019. Donny and Ryan both came to the Marvel offices to discuss what was then just going to be an arc of **VENOM**, maybe a crossover with Spidey at most... **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE**.

Three days later, after talking through the story itself, everyone in the room knew we had something special on our hands. A love letter to all the symbiotic

stories Marvel's creators have crafted over all these years, **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** will stretch into every corner of symbiote mythos. Symbiotes young and old will find their way through the streets of New York, and you won't want to miss a single page!

But there'll be plenty of time for selling later. **FIRST...let's dive into some letters!**

Dear Venom creative team,

First off, I just want to say how amazing this Venom run has been. I just picked it up thinking, "Well, I will see if the first issue is any good."

It was amazing, and I have been reading since. Donny Cates and Ryan Stegman are a great team. And I am super excited to see where you guys go in **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE!**

--Matt



Dear Mr. Cates and Mr. Stegman,

This past Christmas marked a year since my wife lost her father, and she has had a difficult time through what was previously her favorite time of year. One day, when she was at her wit's end on how to preoccupy her mind, I suggested one of your independent books that helped not only to bring peace in the chaos but ignited a desire to read your run on **VENOM!**

Eddie Brock's relationship with the symbiote has quickly become the symbol of our relationship, as we both

have been facing demons that we fight together as often as we can. Yet, there are battles that we each must face alone, and the other can only quietly support from the sidelines. We eagerly wait for each new issue and compare notes on who relates more to what character that month.

My sincerest commendations to the entire creative team! You all put out consistently amazing work! May we enjoy your monthly successes for years to come. Thanks for the ride thus far.

From Hawai'i,
Aloha,
Ka'Eo

Hi, Ka'Eo, and thank you so much for your touching letter. It's so great to hear that the work we do here helps you readers out there in **Mighty Marvel**dom.

Thanks so much for reading, and we hope you guys still dig where we're headed, even if we're putting **Venom** through the wringer!

To everyone at Eddie's Clubhouse,

I meant to send this a while ago, but I've been busy lately. First off, I just want to say that while I only started reading **VENOM** a year or two ago, I've already become a huge fan! The stories are amazing, and the chemistry between Eddie and the symbiote really draws me in!

One of the things that I like about **Venom** (and the symbiotes in general) is that they've bonded to a number of hosts throughout the years. After

VENOMVERSE, I did some digging to see what hosts the Venom symbiote has bonded to in the past, so when I heard about ABSOLUTE CARNAGE and how Cletus will be going after everyone bonded to a symbiote, I was really excited!

However, I became even more excited when I learned about ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN. Thanks to my research, I knew the host you were referring to was the tourist the symbiote bonded to Peter Parker in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #99-#100!!! I'm really excited that you're looking back at random moments in Marvel history and using them to make something great!!! I can't wait to see where this story goes and what's gonna happen next!

Until Next Time!
Jared

(P.S. At some point in the comics, please have the Venom symbiote bond to Iron Man!!!)

Hi, Jared! Thanks for becoming a Venomaniac! We're so glad you gave the book a shot a year ago and stuck with us. Hopefully ABSOLUTE CARNAGE has lived up to your expectations, and, man, have you got a great eye!

I won't confirm or deny who the start of that particular ABSOLUTE CARNAGE tie-in issue will be, but I WILL say that if you've been reading SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN regularly, you might have noticed that in issue #3, there was an extra page in there, featuring that very same tourist exiting a bus in New York City.

What adventures he may go on next are anybody's guess...

Team VENOM,

Obviously, I agree with everyone writing in--you guys are freaking killing it! I recently introduced my 30-year-old sister to this run of VENOM. Last night she called me to tell me Knull showed up in a nightmare and told her she belongs to the abyss! We high-fived for like 10 minutes and sent out this email. You have added so much depth to the character. Thanks for this roller coaster of emotions, nostalgic thoughts and pure badassery!

--Drake M.

Hah! Awesome, Drake. That sounds like a recurring dream I have about missing deadlines.

That's all the mail for this one, folks, but be sure to write us at spideyoffice@marvel.com and mark your letters

"OKAY TO PRINT" and your note may appear in print in the next installment of this very letters column!

And remember -- tell your local comic book shop you want the best, and this month the best is CARNAGE! 'Cause this summer...

CARNAGE RULES!

#carnagerules

And don't miss ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1, one of the best one-shots I've ever worked on EVER and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1--both on sale next week!

Stay sharp!
Devin
@edevinlewis



#2



ABSOLUTE CARNAGE CHECKLIST

AUGUST

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1
VENOM #17

SEPTEMBER

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE:
GHOST RIDER - SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE #1

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS #1
VENOM #18
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30

OCTOBER

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK #1
VENOM #19
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31

NOVEMBER

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5
VENOM #20

RAVENCROFT

INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE

INITIAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT

Instructions: This form is to be completed, signed and dated for all clients who are being referred for psychiatric services.

Presentation at ED ☐ Self ☐ Family/Friend ☒ Police ☐ Provider ☐ Other ☐ N/A

Referral Source/Relationship POLICE (SPIDER-MAN)

Date/Time of Referral 6/4

☒ On-site OR ☐ Walk-in AND ☒ Scheduled OR ☐ Unscheduled

Assessment Began 3/1 and 9:00 a.m. Ended 3/1 12:00 p.m.

Date (MM/DD) and Time (00:00)

Name of Client CLETUS KASADY (ALIAS: CARNAGE) ☒ Male ☐ Female

Street Address

City

Zip

Phone

Date of Birth

040793

Patient No.

ASM010361

Employed? ☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ Unknown Occupation

Veteran? Yes ☐ No ☒

Combat? Yes ☐ No ☒

Language ☒ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Arabic ☐ Chinese ☐ Other

☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing with ☐ American Sign Language

☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing (does not communicate using ASL)

Interpreter Needed ☐ Yes ☒ No

Recent Stressors: ☒ Relationship ☐ Family ☐ Job ☐ Housing ☐ Financial ☒ Legal ☐ Other

Medical History/Treatment/Pertinent injuries: (diagnosis/describe) PATIENT ADMITTED AFTER PHYSICAL CONFLICT W/ SPIDER-MAN. SUFFERED SHOCK SYMPTOMS AFTER BEING FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM ALIEN/EXTERRESTRIAL SYMBIOTE

Behavioral Health History/Treatment

Substance Use History/Treatment

Is there a family history of substance use issues? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown

Does the person currently use mind-altering substances (drugs, alcohol, marijuana, etc.) ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown

If yes, what substances: Blood work inconclusive. Prolonged exposure to ALIEN SYMBIOTE APPAR TO HAVE AFFECTED PATIENT'S BODY CHEMISTRY

Mental Health History/Treatment

Is there a family history of mental health issues? ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

(diagnosis/describe) PATIENT'S MOTHER DIAGNOSED W/ PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIA / Paternal History Unknown

Is there a family history of suicide attempt(s) or completion(s)? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown

(describe) Mother Died During Childbirth / Paternal History Unknown

TRANSCRIPT OF PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION

PATIENT NAME: CLETUS KASADY

PATIENT NO.: ASM010361

TRANSCRIBED BY CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN

INTERVIEWER: Testing. Testing. Dr. Davinia Marcia Pournella initiating intake interview with subject #626, a Mr. Cletus Kasady, at approximately...3:32 PM. Hello, Mr. Kasady.

KASADY: Please. My daddy was the Mr. Kasady around our house. You can call me Cletus, Doc.

INTERVIEWER: I hope you're comfortable, Cletus. The restraints aren't too tight?

KASADY: Snug as a bug in a rug, Doc. You recording this? That what you're doing?

INTERVIEWER: As a matter of fact, yes, I am. Are you uneasy with that?

KASADY: Don't like it. Don't like it one bit. No, sir.

INTERVIEWER: And why's that?

KASADY: You ever had a tape recorder as a kid, Doc? Ever record your own voice for XXXX and giggles? But when you play it back, it don't sound nothing like you? Nothing at all. Matter a fact, it sounds like somebody else's voice altogether... Like it's a different person using your mouth.

INTERVIEWER: Is that how you feel sometimes, Cletus? Like you're a different person?

KASADY: Hell, it's a regular party in my head sometimes. A real rager, you know? I've invited along all my friends and they've cranked the music up so loud, I can't even hear myself think.

INTERVIEWER: I imagine that must be painful.

KASADY: Painful? Doc, have you ever been to one of my brain jamborees? The party don't stop! You should swing by after work. Hop on in.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you for the invite. Now I was wondering if we might talk about why--

KASADY: Turn it off.

INTERVIEWER: Excuse me?

KASADY: I said, turn the tape recorder off. You ain't stealing my voice.

INTERVIEWER: I assure you, Cletus, that's not my intention. This is merely for reference's sake.

KASADY: Ever hear how Native Americans never liked having their picture taken 'cause they thought the photograph captured their soul? I remember hearing that and thinking to myself... That's just silly. But the more I got to thinking about it, the more I kinda liked the idea. Having something to hold onto of somebody special. Somebody you looooved. A little piece of them.

INTERVIEWER: Mr. Kasady--

KASADY: Anybody can take a picture. I wanted more of my special friends. I wanted something reeeal special. Something nobody else could have. I wanted to keep their screams.

INTERVIEWER: That's close enough, Mr. Kasady. Lean back, please--

KASADY: I kept that tape recorder I had when I was a kid. Sometimes I made tapes for my special friends. And just when I was done playing with them, I made sure I brought that itty-bitty built-in microphone right up to their mouths and pressed record right before they breathed their last. I captured that rattle, Doc. That death rattle. Their last exhale is mine, sucked right into the cassette. And I got so many tapes, 'doc. I play 'em on the car stereo. I make little mixtapes--my Greatest Gasps, I guess you could call it. One rattle after another.

INTERVIEWER: That's enough. I'm concluding this interview--

KASADY: Some of them are move lively than others. Some of them have a husky heft to them, some even say a word, I capture their voices, I listen to them, I play them over and over again, all those sighs, all those squeals, all those screams cut short they're mine all mine I hear them all the time all the time I hear them all I hear them all I hear them all the

(END OF RECORDING.)